# OLD QUAKER HOMESTEAD IN A CHARMING MODERN GUISE

## Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock Needed No Architect When She Made Over the Titus House at Westbury, L. I.—Gardens Created by Miss Eustis

WESTBURY, L. I., made known all over the world in connection with the Meadow Brook Club and the polo contests, presents in its fourth half century cycle interesting contrasts to some of its former characteristics. Stone roads have replaced the connecting lanes and dirt roads of old, and over them passes a constant procession of autos and thoroughbred horses, in a countryside noted for its harsh judgment half a century ago upon the young Quakers who slyly enjoyed the trying of horses sold at a vendue—the only recognized excitement for the "quiet people."

There is delightful individuality about some of the houses, notably those which have been reconstructed and added to without obliterating entirely the dignified old Colonial lines. One of these is the Thomas Hitchcock house, formerly the Titus homestead. The original grant of Broad Hollow Farm, comprising thirty acres, was made to Edmund Titus in 1664, and the small pond of the present day was long ago a boundary mark known as the Great Pond.

The present road leading past the Hitchcock house was described in old deeds in 1750 as "the Bridle path," not a bad name for the old lane now, for men, women and children are oftener seen here on horseback than autos. This bridle path was used as a highway until the Jericho turnpike, into which it leads, came into existence. The other entrance was east of the Great Pond, and there connected with what are now the John Morris, Kelsey and Phipps estates, ending at what was known as Dingly lane. At that time there was a school house standing on the northerly side on what is the present Phipps estate, and when the bridle path was closed by the town authorities "a right of way was forever reserved for children, to pass and repass at will along its length."

From one generation to another of the Titus family the estate descended until sold to Thomas Hitchcock. Then there developed from severe Quaker simplicity the present embodiment of an attractive English homestead. The house, with east and west wings of goodly size, exhibits artistic lines and charming simplicity. Mrs. Hitchcock needed no architect to direct the changes she desired to make in the house to render it suited to the life it would shelter. Delighted with the window doors of quaint corner closets she repeated the design in the casement windows of the reconstruction. Whether she inherited a talent for architecture from an old ancestor who was one of the architects of the Louvre or whether it was a special gift she planned wisely and with taste both the changes in the body of the house and in the rearrangement of the interior.

Some of the changes have been made a second time. For instance, a larger dining room being needed the billiard room was taken for the purpose, a handsome panelled partition cutting off the quaint old stairway and giving Mrs. Hitchcock's aunt, Miss Eustis, a private stairway to her suite of apartments.

The Thos Hitchcock House at Westbury, L.I.

Part of Drawing-Room

English Privet Planted 20 Years Ago

While Mrs. Hitchcock was busy with the reconstruction of the house Miss Eustis was creating gardens and showed herself fully as practical in her plans as her niece. Recognizing the value of rich soil, she chose as the foundation for her garden plan that useful part of the estate where pigs had been quartered, and the result has surely vindicated her choice. The growth of everything is phenomenal. Over an area of 90 by 100 feet forty cartloads of soil from the bed of an old pond was spread. This was laid out from a circle in the centre, walks radiating from it. The walks were made to show a strong note of blue and green by masses of periwinkle bordering them, while a hedge of Pyrus japonica was a flaming herald of spring, with its lovely bloom and foliage. Numberless pans of the fruit are yearly given to a thrifty housekeeper on the estate, who gets such returns as dozens of jars of jam for her storeroom.

Over the wicket entrance of the garden is a pergola, in season freighted with the flowers of a mauve wistaria, the blooms of unusual length. Miss Eustis believes in the drapery of flowering vines as a striking and effective note of decoration, and besides the wistarias many varieties of roses and the Akebia quinato are in glorious evidence.

Like the visible spirit of the garden stands in its centre a lovely statue of a slender girlish figure once owned by a Queen of Naples. When it was rescued from the Tiber Mrs. George B. Eustis, then in Rome, bought it for her father, W. W. Corcoran of Washington, and it later came to Mrs. Hitchcock, who shrined it in the garden.

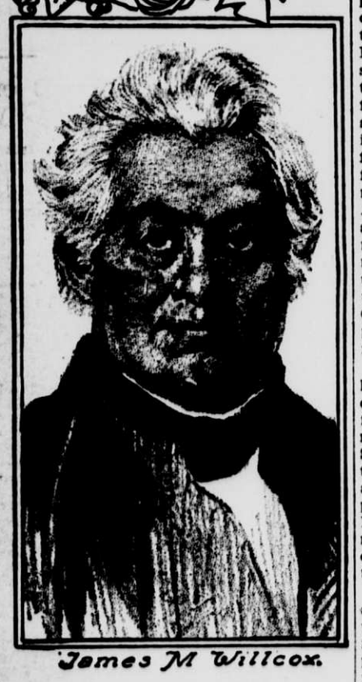
The influence of many lives is seen both within and without the house, and curiously does not make a discordant note. In a quaint little china closet there are many pieces in [illegible] with the imperial N of the great Napoleon. In the drawing room of soft neutral colors, on the high, old Colonial mantel are a Sevres clock and candelabra, and facing them behind the great divan are Sevres vases of royal blue on brass mountings, and seemingly not a whit misplaced.

There are many bits of family history told in divers ways. One which is specially attractive is the portrait of the grandmother of Miss Eustis, who was Celeste Durald, nee Perrault. Miss Perrault is a very youthful personage in her portrait and does not look even the sixteen years she numbered, but she was painted holding in her hand a letter addressed to her father and containing an offer of marriage from her lover. This letter was confided to the care of an Indian messenger, and was enclosed in a copper receptacle made by the lover, Valerien Allain, the copper inlaid with gold.

There are many family portraits, and with each goes a story of interest connected with notable times and people. The strong note of the present day is given in Mr. Hitchcock's library, where cups and pictures of fine pedigreed horses declare the household to be one of sporting record.

# WORLDWIDE SEARCH FOR A SUBSTITUTE FOR WOOD PULP

## South Africa Has Just Added Elephant Grass to the Long List of Suggested Materials for Paper Making



James M Willcox.

ALMOST every month of every year brings a report of the discovery in some distant part of the world of a new papermaking material which is expected to take the place of wood pulp, the supply of which is said to be decreasing to an alarming extent in all regions where pulp producing trees grow. The latest of these discoveries has been made in Uganda, Africa, and the Imperial Institute of London describes in a report on the subject a series of experiments made with this new material, which is known as elephant grass.

The marshlands of tropical Africa are thickly covered with this grass, which grows to a height of from six to ten feet and has proved a source of trouble and expense to agriculturists, as it grows rapidly after the shoots above ground have been burned or cut down. A sample of dried mature elephant grass was sent recently from Uganda to the Imperial Institute with the object of ascertaining its suitability for the manufacture of paper.

The consignment, which weighed 177 pounds when received and 145 after being air dried, is said to have yielded after treatment in the laboratories a pulp of good color composed of ultimate fibres rather longer than those of esparto grass and about the same length as those of bamboo pulp. It furnished a fairly good paper which the British experts expect to be able to improve so as to make of this material a suitable and profitable substitute for wood pulp.

But papermakers have learned, ever since wood pulp was first used in their plants, to be rather sceptical regarding reported discoveries of substitute raw materials. The use of wood pulp for the manufacture of paper is of comparative recent origin, as its commercial application as a raw material for this purpose dates from about 1869. But long before the first cry of conservation was heard and the first protests made against the devastation of forests men had been engaged in the search for a new raw material. An important American corporation has for years employed experts in an effort to discover a suitable method for making paper pulp of banana stalks. A large mill is now being constructed at Tieling, in Manchuria, where Japanese experts expect to use millet as a raw material. Papyrus plants of natural growth were recently discovered in the bed of a creek in Lake county, California, and a revolution in the papermaking industry was promised, but nothing has been heard of it since.

It has long been known that excellent paper can be made from sugar cane fibre, but the process has been found to be impracticable for many reasons. The United States Consul at Santiago, Cuba, announced recently that a large plant was being constructed at Preston, on Nipe Bay, to carry out practical tests with the sugar cane fibre. It was asserted that this fibre could be made into paper at a considerably lower cost than wood pulp, but nothing further has been heard on the subject.

Colorado came to the front some time ago with the announcement that pinon wood, which grows in abundance in that State, could be made to supply wood pulp and John Fitzgerald, supervisor of the National Pike Forest, was quoted as stating that the Government was planning to erect mills for the manufacture of paper with this new material. What became of pinon wood pulp?

New Mexico soon followed with the report that bear grass, which grows luxuriantly on the southwest prairies and with less rain than any other plant, had been found to be suitable for the manufacture of paper, but that was the last heard about it and another "revolution in the industry" failed. Similar "discoveries" are constantly being reported and a hundred others could be mentioned without difficulty, all of which appear to have failed to "make good."

The scarcity of pulp wood appears, however, to have been greatly exaggerated. The problem may be solved, according to good authorities, without the discovery of substitute material by the preservation of forests in wood producing States. This important question has aroused considerable interest in the United States during recent years and decisive steps have been taken by the Government for the reforestation of devastated areas and the protection of standing forests.

It has been shown that to supply a mill having an output of 300 tons of newspaper a week. 2,500 acres planted with spruce and hard woods would be sufficient to give the wood pulp necessary for one year. If the total forest areas was 100,000 acres the timber available would be sufficient for forty years supply. During that period the spruce would largely reproduce itself, so that by progressive and careful management of the forest an area of 100,000 acres should afford a perpetual supply to a mill of the capacity given. These figures are those of three of the most widely known authorities on papermaking in the world, C. F. Cross, E. J. Bevan and R. W. Sindall.

The problem has also been studied by Gifford Pinchot, the forestry expert, and the valuable and elaborate experiments he has carried out on the subject of the growth of spruce are of special interest. A large area of forest land was carefully examined as to the nature of timber, its condition and its growth. Mr. Pinchot's experiments enabled him to figure the exact amount of timber which could be cut from the forest and the number of years which would elapse before an equal quantity of timber could be cut from the same area. This is best illustrated as follows:

The case studied was that of a man owning 100,000 acres, yielding an average of seven cords per acre of spruce ten inches or more in diameter, and the problem was to ascertain how much the owner could cut annually if he wished to obtain a sustained annual yield, and how soon he could return to the portion cut over the first year and cut the same amount of timber of about the same diameter limit as at first. Mr. Pinchot prepared tables showing that the total amount of wood with a diameter limit of ten inches to be 700,000 cords, while the same yield of pulp wood could be obtained after thirty-seven years. The area to be operated annually would be the thirty-seventh part of 100,000, or 2,700 acres, while the annual cut of wood would be the thirty-seventh part of 700,000, or 19,000 cords.

A brief examination of these figures and facts would indicate that there is no apparent danger of either the pulp or the paper industry being deprived of the sources of raw material, and we can therefore afford to await patiently the discovery of a new raw material which will actually prove available as a substitute for wood. It is nevertheless certain that such a discovery would really mean a complete revolution in the paper industry and would add an important chapter to the already wonderful story of the making of paper.

The First Paper Making Machine.

The discovery of the art of making paper has been credited to many men of many nationalities. It has, however, been established beyond a doubt that it originated in the Orient.

The Hindus and the Arabs learned it from the Chinese. The Arabs, invading Spain, brought the art with them and little by little Europe learned from Asia and from Africa how paper was made. Bailey Willis of the United States Geological Survey has gathered in his travels through China some interesting documents showing how paper was made there many centuries ago.

One of these documents is a photograph taken by him of a double trip hammer used in many parts of the Celestial Empire and which is still being used in some places for making paper from bamboo stalks. The Chinese papermaker's outfit consisted of several tanks where the bamboo was rotted with water, a trip hammer run by an undershot water wheel, a tray on which the pulp was dried and dyed, resulting at length in strong wrapping paper.

In the United States the history of papermaking does not cover more than 200 years. The first paper mill was probably that established by James M. Willcox, who flourished about 1730. The old mill still stands to-day in a picturesque and fertile valley of Pennsylvania. The interesting story of this pioneer of what is to-day one of the leading industries of America is contained in the records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia, prepared by a direct descendant of the original American papermaker.

The exact date of the opening of the old Willcox mill is unknown, although it appears that James M. Willcox paid taxes in the town of Concord, Pa., as early as 1725. From its establishment until 1775 little is known of the operations of the mill, but at the latter date the first paper for Continental currency was manufactured, and here too was made some of the paper used by Benjamin Franklin, who was at that time operating a printing office in Philadelphia.

In 1776, when the war made impossible the importation of foreign paper, Congress realized the necessity of keeping in operation the paper mills in the vicinity of Philadelphia, which produced nearly one-half of all the paper made in the Colonies, and resolved, "That the paper makers in Pennsylvania be detained from proceeding with their associates to New Jersey." A month later the Pennsylvania Council of Safety confirmed and gave effect to the resolution of Congress.

As illustrating the importance of the manufacture of paper in those days and the limited number of manufacturers engaged in the business, the experience of Nathan Sellers in May, 1776, may be told. Nathan Sellers was an expert in the manufacture of moulds used in the making of paper, and while he was serving in the patriot army the paper makers experienced so much difficulty in obtaining proper moulds that a petition was addressed to Congress praying "that Nathan Sellers be ordered to return from service to make the proper, suitable moulds for carrying on the paper manufactory." This petition received favorable action.

The Willcox mill made the first bills containing water marks for the State of Pennsylvania and also manufactured paper for the currency of several other Colonies. Years later paper for the currency of the Confederation of States was made at the same establishment, and it was to the old Ivy mills also that the Government applied in 1812. It was at the latter period that a distinctive paper with colored silk threads woven through it was made for the Government's use.

The first machine for grinding wood into pulp was invented in Germany in 1844, but it was in the United States that sulphite fibre was first used in 1867, resulting in the production, very much more cheaply than previously, of a strong cellulose fibre from spruce wood.

The American paper trade began its real development about the year 1850, and its progress since that date has never been interrupted. New and wider machines soon replaced the old narrow ones, and the rapid advances in prices of cotton helped to popularize the use of many articles made of paper. The result was an equally marked advance in paper prices.

Paper machines used from 1870 to 1885 produced paper at what was then regarded as the tremendous speed of 130 feet a minute on machines of a maximum width of from 86 to 90 inches. Many modern high speed machines are now running night and day on news paper at almost five times that speed.

The First American Paper Mill

## Honesty in Prisoners

RECENTLY a visitor to the Tombs in this city dropped $140, and although he was pretty sure where he had lost the money he gave up hope of getting it again. Besides, there was a repugnance to telling how careless he had been when the very surroundings should have enjoined caution upon him. Strange to relate, a prisoner found the money and duly handed it in to the warden. Seems an odd thing to many, but it is by no means unprecedented.

Once during a visit to Sing Sing a Manhattan politician in an experimental mood left his gold watch and chain on a work bench in one of the buildings where convicts were engaged in fabric work. He kept a sharp eye out, for he didn't propose to lose his watch, which had been presented to him by admiring associates of a ward club of which he had been president. After ten minutes the politician returned and could not find his watch. He had noticed several convicts passing in and out, one of them passing quite near him. He complained of his loss to the head keeper. The convicts were lined up. One of them, the man who passed close, grinned. "Are you looking for your watch?" he asked. "I certainly am," said the politician severely. "It's in your pocket." So it was. The man who passed close had put it there. He was a clever pickpocket. He enjoyed the laugh, and then said: "If it had only been gold." The politician retorted that it was gold.

"Oh, no it isn't," said the convict. "But it was given to me by my club. It is an expensive watch." The convict grinned again. "I know the club," he, "and I know the man they gave money to buy it. He's up here now. He bought a pretty good watch—a fairly good one—but it's plated."